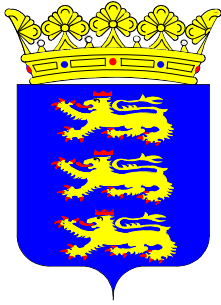


La Force



Description of Arms :

D'azur à trois léopards d'or l'un sur l'autre lampassés, armés, couronnés de gueules.

Principal Title : Duke de la Force.

Creation : Original creation, 1637 ; recreated several times and finally in 1839.

Subsidiary Titles : Marquis.

Family Name : Caumont la Force.

Family History : This family claims its origins from 1070. The arms of Calo de Calemonte are attributed in the Salle des Croisades (Crusades) at Versailles in 1090. A certain N (perhaps Nomparr) de Caumont borrowed some money at Tyr, during a crusade there, in 1192. The family, therefore, is of very ancient establishment. In 1637, the dukedom of la Force was created but succession, since then, has been rather complicated. The sixth duke, Armand-Nomparr, died without heirs in 1764. He had, however, adopted a cousin and this branch, known under the added name of Beauvillars, inherited the dukedom from the senior line - but this died also.

The title was re-established in 1784 but this was a personal award and, in any case, became extinct again in 1838. This was in favour of Louis-Joseph, 1768-1838. The title had been confirmed, in the form of duke hereditary peer, in 1817 and the additional honour of Grandee of Spain had been awarded in 1790. On the death of Louis-Joseph his brother, François-Philibert (1722-1854) assumed the title - on his personal authority. Louis-Philippe then nominated this latter as a peer but under the name of Duke de Caumont. It is from this gentleman that the present users of the title descend.

It must be said, however, that a Tribunal held, in 1914, that the title was in fact hereditary - though, as to this, some experts remain doubtful. Further, some papers have come to light that suggest that the Tribunal was correct. It is often said that duchies, in France, are very strictly regulated. Despite this, many do seem to be the subject of ambiguities.

In any event, there is no question as to the distinction the family has added to France and the claim is now generally accepted. It should also be added that many old families are so venerable that they would now have difficulty in producing documentary evidence.

La Force

François de Caumont, 18th Sire of Caumont
= Philippi de Beauvail, Lady de La Force

Jacques Nompar de Caumont (?-1652), 19th Sire of Caumont, 1st Marquis,
1st Duke de La Force (1637)

Henri Nompar de Caumont (1582-1678),
Duke de La Force

Henri Jacques Nompar de Caumont (1675-1726),
Duke de La Force

Armand Nompar (?-1764),
6th Duke de La Force

younger branch of
Beauville

branch : Antonin Nompar de Caumont (1633-1723),
Count, Duke of Lauzun (1692)

daughter

Bertrand Nompar de Caumont (1724-1773), Sire of Beauville, 1st Marquis
= (1757) Adelaïde Luce Madeleine de Galard de Brassac de Bearn

Louis Joseph Nompar de Caumont (1768-1838),
2nd Marquis de La Force, 1st Duke de La Force (1784-1838)

François Philibert (1772-1854),
Duke de La Force

Auguste Nompar de Caumont (1878-1961), 12th Duke de La Force
= Marie Therese of Noailles

Jacques de Caumont (1912-1985), 13th Duke de La Force
= Monique de La Rochefoucauld

Marguerite de Caumont de La Force (1923-)
= (1942) Jean de Choiseul (1915-), 9th Duke of Praslin

HENRI-JACQUES DE CAUMONT (1944-), 14th Duke de La Force
= (1982) Aline Donsimoni